

From: Vern Hinsvark [mailto:verno@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2014 11:03 AM
Subject: City Council Public Testimony - Oppose Bill 69
Dear Members of the Honolulu City Council,

2014 MAY -6 AM 11:44

I strongly oppose Bill 69 and respectfully request that you permanently shelve this proposal.

Bus service should be fully restored, so that residents can once again easily traverse our island. This is a basic right for all of our residents.

However, funding for this basic service should not come from a source of revenue that violates the spirit and intent of our century-long ban on billboards, undermines the unique character of our community, and exposes City coffers to costly lawsuits.

The billboard ban is a gift to us from past generations, sparing us from the divisive and offensive visual clutter plaguing other major cities. No other county in the state allows advertising like this. It is important for this Council to hold the line on our billboard ban and protect a defining feature of our beautiful island.

We know that opening up advertising on our buses will spark litigation because that is what is currently happening in other cities. I do not want my community divided by inflammatory billboards and my tax dollars gobbled up by free speech lawsuits.

Please find the funding for basic city services elsewhere. The tax on tourists is a good place to start.

Enforcing current laws and collecting fines is another way to raise money. This is especially true in the case of illegal vacation rentals.

In the County of Hawaii, the property tax rate for residential housing is \$10.04 per \$1000. A homeowner pays \$6.15.
To be a homeowner one need to be a resident.

The County of Honolulu could enact a similar policy which would raise a large amount of revenue.

The side effect of this just might make housing more affordable for residents.

At the very least, outside speculators would be paying a faire share of the burden they put on our aina.

These are reliable sources of revenue for the City that will support essential services for its citizens without affecting the natural beauty that our economy relies on.

I feel strongly that our natural beauty is far more valuable to the quality of life for residents and the bottomline on our economy than anything offered in this measure. Please shelve Bill 69 and find a better way to balance the City budget.

Don't get suckered into being the bad guys that allowed billboards in Hawaii.
Don' have this be your legacy.

Mahalo,
Vernon Hinsvark
Kailua